

Deep Roots



America's consular presence in Shanghai dates to the mid-1800s, when a treaty of "peace, amity, and commerce" between the United States and the Qing

Dynasty sparked a boom in trade. In the absence of an officially appointed consul, Boston merchant Henry Wolcott raised the Stars and Stripes over his office near the Bund and became America's first Acting Consul in Shanghai. In 1854, the U.S. government named Robert Murphy its first professional consul to Shanghai.

As Shanghai's links with the West grew, so did the consulate. William Seward, appointed consul general by President Lincoln, served in Shanghai for 15 years and presided over the development of the American Settlement north of Suzhou Creek and then its merger into the International Settlement.

By the early twentieth century, more than 1,500 Americans called Shanghai home. To keep pace with its responsibilities, the consulate purchased a new office on Huangpu Lu in 1916. At \$355,000, it was then the most expensive U.S. embassy or consulate in the world. By 1930, the consulate housed ten State Department officers, a trade commissioner from the Department of Commerce, an agricultural agent, the U.S. Court for China, a jail, wharf, post office, and military parade grounds.

Japanese attacks beginning in 1933 threw the booming metropolis into chaos, and the consulate was forced to close from 1941 to 1945. U.S. diplomats returned for a few years, as China was engulfed in civil war. When the new Communist government did not recognize the status of foreign diplomats, Consul General Walter McConaughy was forced to lower the flag and close the consulate on April 25, 1950. Nearly 30 years later to the day, his successor celebrated its reopening.

A Historic Home

Since reopening in 1980, the consulate has been housed in a historic villa in the heart of Shanghai's old French Concession. While staffing growth has seen the conversion of the consul general's quarters into office space, and dispersed several consulate sections to other parts of the city, this historic building continues to serve as our chancery.



The main house is a villa in the French Renaissance style, built in 1921. Prior to becoming the consulate, the property hosted varied occupants. The first was pre-war British trading giant Jardine, Matheson and Co. During World War II, the Toyoda family of Toyota Motor Corporation lived in the house, followed by the Swiss consul general. Wealthy textile family scion Rong Hongyuan (Yung Hungyuen) bought the property in 1946, but fled Shanghai soon after. Following the founding of the People's Republic, the house was used by the All China Women's Federation, was a center for "political education" during the Cultural Revolution, and finally served as a state guesthouse prior to the consulate taking the lease.

The estate sits on three acres and includes several outbuildings, an orange grove, a Chinese rock garden, and a carp pond. Extensive renovations were carried out in 1997 and 2003-2005 to preserve the property's beauty and upgrade its effectiveness as a workplace.



<http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn>



U.S. Consulate 美国驻上海总领事馆

General Shanghai

1980 to 2010

On April 28, 1980, Consul General Donald Anderson formally reopened the United States Consulate General in Shanghai, reestablishing an official U.S. presence that first began in 1844.



In the thirty years since, the consulate has grown along with the city of Shanghai and the relationship between the United States and China. With staff from the Departments of State, Commerce, Agriculture, and Homeland Security as well as the Food and Drug Administration and Federal Aviation Administration, the consulate carries out a broad mission, building understanding and cooperation on a wide range of vital issues. The consulate also plays an important role in the trade and travel that has strengthened commercial, cultural, and personal ties between Chinese and Americans over the last 30 years.

Shanghai's key role in our bilateral relationship dates back to the signing of the Shanghai Communiqué by Premier Zhou Enlai and President Richard Nixon in 1972. Since the consulate's reopening, all six U.S. presidents have visited Shanghai, during or after their White House years. Shanghai was the only non-capital city President Obama visited on his November 2009 trip to Asia, giving new evidence of the key role the city and the consulate continue to play in relations between our two countries.

美国驻沪总领事馆正式开馆

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1980
Consulate issues
1,583 visas in first
year.

1981
Former President Carter
visits Shanghai several
months after leaving office.

1987
Number of
visas issued
exceeds
10,000.



1987
American Chamber
of Commerce is
reestablished.



1980
Shanghai American School
reopens on consulate
grounds with some 20
students.




1983
Speaker Thomas O'Neill leads first major congressional delegation to Shanghai.

1984 President Reagan visits Shanghai's Fudan University and an early U.S.-Chinese joint venture.

1985 Fudan University establishes Center for American Studies.

1989
USS Blue Ridge makes historic first port visit to Shanghai.

1998
Number of visas
issued exceeds
50,000. 



1997
Speaker Newt Gingrich
celebrates Easter Sunday at
Shanghai Community Church.

1994
First McDonald's
opens in Shanghai.

1990
Pudong is declared a
Special Economic Zone.

1989
KFC opens first quick-service restaurant in Shanghai.



1998 President Clinton visits Shanghai with his family. The President speaks at Shanghai Library, and the First Lady opens a children's hospital and tours historic Ohel Rachel synagogue.

1950s
Victims
Share
law

1997 Vice President Gore visits Shanghai, commemorates launch of Shanghai GM.



1993 | Number of visas issued exceeds 25,000.


1989
Shanghai American School
outgrows consulate space,
moves to Number Three
Girls' Middle School.

2001
President Bush attends
Shanghai APEC summit.

2002
Shanghai Shark Yao
Ming is #1 draft pick for
NBA's Houston Rockets.

2007
Sports Envoys Michelle Kwan and Cal Ripken visit; Shanghai hosts Special Olympics.

2009
President Obama visits
Shanghai, holds town hall
meeting with students.



2001
China joins the World Trade Organization.



2004 Houston Rockets and Sacramento Kings play first NBA exhibition game in China at Shanghai Stadium.

2007 | Number of visas issued exceeds 100,000.

2008
U.S. Air Force C-17s deliver relief supplies to Pudong Airport to assist Chinese winter storm victims.

2010 The USA Pavilion opens at the Shanghai World Expo.

美国总统奥巴马抵沪
开始对中国进行首次国事访问